

Press Release

7/21/08

Contact: Sonja Nowakowski, 406-444-3078; Todd Everts, 406-444-3747

Comments sought on climate change study, draft legislation

The Environmental Quality Council of the Legislature is seeking public comment on a draft climate change report, and a dozen pieces of related, draft legislation.

For the last year, the EQC has been studying the topic of climate change. The Council has discussed the overall topic of climate change, learned about how other state's are addressing the issue, and reviewed the Montana Climate Change Advisory Committee report released in late 2007.

EQC members have narrowed their study and focused on topics including enhancing solid waste recovery, or recycling opportunities; promoting local food and fiber; improving transportation system management, or efforts to enhance mass transit and ensure adequate transportation planning; providing additional opportunities for low income and rental housing energy efficiency and weatherization; expanding biomass opportunities; and reviewing requirements that new state buildings exceed current building codes or standards.

The draft report, including the draft legislation, is available for public comment through August 22. Comments will be compiled and presented to the EQC at a meeting September 8-9 in Helena. At that time, the Council will consider revisions to the report and draft legislation. The Council also will decide whether it wishes to pursue the draft bills and take them before the 2009 Legislature.

The full report: "Climate Change: An analysis of climate change policy issues in Montana" is available online at: www.leg.mt.gov/eqc. The website includes all the information reviewed by the Council over the last 12 months.

Copies of the draft report and discussion drafts also may be obtained by calling (406) 444-3078 or (406) 444-3747.

Comments may be submitted by email to snowakowski@mt.gov. Please put "climate change" in the subject line. To submit comments by mail, send to: Sonja Nowakowski, Legislative Environmental Policy Office, P.O. Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620-1704.